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GENERAL

1. Swedish air chief suggests possible wartime assistance-- According to US Charge Cumming in Stockholm, the Commanding General of the Swedish Air Force recently told British Air Marshal Tedder that under certain circumstances he would evacuate the Swedish Air Force to "any point of combat assistance to Western defense forces." Cumming believes it to be very doubtful that the Swedish Air Force either could or would be ordered to leave Sweden in the event of Soviet attack and that the Commanding General's statement would be repudiated by the Swedish Government if it became known. Cumming interprets the real purpose of the Swedish statement to be: (a) to invite current assistance to the Swedish Air Force and the standardization of equipment along RAF and USAF lines; and (b) to initiate backdoor staff conversations with the US and the UK.

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(CIA Comment: CIA believes that the Swedish Air Force would not evacuate unless all further resistance was useless or unless the tactical situation required air operations from Norwegian or Danish bases in coordinated defense of Swedish territory.)

FAR EAST

2. KOREA: Rhee asks US guarantee of Korean independence-- According to US Representative Muccio, President Rhee is tarrying over his decision to issue a statement in which he will affirm the ability of the Korean security forces to defend the Republic and suggest a review of the timing of US troop withdrawal. Muccio reports that Rhee, who apparently hopes for more concrete confirmation that the US intends to send military aid, specifically asked whether the US might not

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issue a statement which would reaffirm the mutual defense aspects of the treaty of 1883. Muccio believes Rhee will make a statement soon, possibly at an anti-Communist rally on 16 April.

(CIA Comment: CIA believes that Rhee will utilize every possible device to obtain concrete assurances of US military aid.)

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